

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7432
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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TAGS: PFOR, XF, JO, FR, GE, AU, IS, UK, LE
SUBJECT: FAROUK KADDOUMI ON MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AND PALESTINIAN
NATIONAL COUNCIL.

REF: 76 KUWAIT 5912 (NOTAL)

1. THE PLO POLITICAL DEPARTMENT CHIEF, FAROUK KADDOUMI,
REPORTEDLY MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW IN
LEBANON BY A REPORTER FROM KUWAIT DAILY AL WATAN (PRINTED MARCH 6):

A. GENEVA CONFERENCE: PLO POSITION. THE PLO PLACES LITTLE
FAITH IN THE GENEVA CONCEPT AND ESTIMATESTHAT WAR IS MORE LIKELY
IN 1977 THAN MIDDLE EAST SOLUTION. WHILE IT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT
"ARAB" NATIONS AND OTHERS SUPPORT THE GENEVA IDEA, THE PLO

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IS WORKING THROUGH THE UN AND WITH EUROPEAN LEADERS TO
ACHIEVE ITS AIMS BY OTHER MEANS. THE PLO BELIEVES THAT THE USG
AND ISRAEL ARE USING THE GENEVA IDEA MERELY TO GAIN TIME TO BUILD
ADDITIONAL ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED LANDS AND FURTHER
"VIOLATE PALESTINIAN RIGHTS." KADDOUMI REPORTEDLY TOLD UN
SECGEN WALDHEIM RECENTLY IN GENEVA THAT THE PLO WILL NOT ATTEND
A GENEVA CONFERENCE BECAUSE "WE REJECT UN RESOLUTION 242,"

BUT LATER IN INTERVIEW, KADDOUMI IS REPORTED SAYING THAT
"WE INFORMED WALDHEIM ON THE FOLLOWING CONDITONS FOR PLO ATTENDANCE
AT GENEVA: AN INVATION TO THE PLO; PLACEMENT OF THE
"PALESTINIAN ITEM" ON THE GENEVA AGENDA; AND "GUARANTEES OF AN
INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE." KADDOUMI ALSO OPINED THAT
NO GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD BE HELD, BECAUSE OF ISRAELI INFLEX-
IBILITY AND EVEN IF HELD IT "WILL HAVE NO POSITIVE RESULTS."

B. ROLES OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THE FRG FONMIN
CAME TO THE MIDDLE EAST RECENTLY TO "SERVE GERMAN INTERSTS...
THE FRG IS FOLLOWING THE POLICY OF THE U.S.," U.S. PRESSURE ON
EEC COUNTRIES COVEYED BY VICE PRES MONDALE, HAS BEEN
ESPECIALLY FELT BY THE FRG, FRANCE AND UK. ONE OUTCOME OF THIS
PRESSURE WAS THE FAILURE OF THE RECENT EUROPEAN-ARAB DIALOGUE
MEETING (IN TUNIS) TO ISSUE A STATEMENT FAVORABLE TO PALESTINIANS.
KADDOUMI HAS ALSO DISCUSSED WITH AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR KREISKY THE
ATTITUDE OF "INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM" TOWARD THE PALESTINIAN
ISSUE AND MEETINGS HELD BETWEEN "PALESTINIANS AND JEWS" OF
WHICH KREISKY HAD KNOWLEDGE. KADDOUMI ASSERTED THAT THE
PALESTINIAN PARTICIPANTS REPRESENTED NEITHER FATAH NOR
THE PLO, NOTHING THAT HE COULD SPEAK FOR BOTH GROUPS.
LASTLY, KADDOUMI SAID THE USSR IS A "SINCERE FRIEND" WITH
WHOM THE PLO HAS SOME DIFFERENCES, WHICH "IS NATURAL."

C. PALESTINIAN-JORDANIAN TIES. WHILE THE PLO
"INSISTS" ON A LINK WITH JORDAN, PALESTINIANS WILL ALSO INSIST
ON RETAINING AN "INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT" AND FOREIGN POLICY.
REGARDING OTHER MATTERS, HOWEVER, SUCH AS "ELECTIONS" AND
"POPULAR, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS", JOINT ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT
BE FEASIBLE. ANY SUCH RELATIONSHIPS WOULD BE ARRIVED AT ONLY
AFTER A PALESTINIAN STATE IS ESTABLISHED, AND ITS NATURE MIGHT
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BE MERELY A "MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING" RATHER THAN A "CONFEDERATION."
D. PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL (CAIRO, MARCH 12).
THE COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD AS SCHEDULED DESPITE "OBJECTIONS
BY ONE FACTION OR ANOTHER." THE BASIC CHARTER WILL NOT BE
AMENDED; "WE MAY NOT AT ANY COST" CHANGE THE 10 POINTS OF THE
CHARTER WHICH GOVERN "PLO POLITICAL POLICY". IT WOULD BE A
"NATURAL THING" HOWEVER IF THE COUNCIL WERE TO CHOOSE SOME NEW PLO
PERSONALITIES AS LEADERS, WHICH SOME ARAB SIDES" DESIRE.
E. MILITARY OPERATIONS: KADDOUMI CONCLUDED BY SAYING
THAT "THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE SHOULD ESCALATE ITS MILITARY
OPERATIONS
INSIDE OCCUPIED TERRITORY AND STEP UP THE POLITICAL STRUGGLE
OF THE MASSES THERE".

2. COMMENT: SPATE OF HARD-LINE COMMENTS BY PLO PERSONALITIES
PUBLISHED IN PAST FEW WEEKS SEEM DESIGNED TO COUNTER MODERATE
TREND IN PLO APPROACH WHICH WAS EARLIER HERALDED BY KHALID AL HASSAN
HERE (REFTEL) AND ENDORSED BY PLO ATTITUDE IN LEBANON AND BEGINNING
OF POSSIBLE DIALOGUE WITH JORDAN. REASON FOR RETURN TO STANDARD

HARD LINE OBSCURE BUT MANY MAY BE RELATED TO (A) PROBLEM OF HOLDING
DESPERATE PLO ELEMENTS TOGETHER, (B) PARTIAL RECOVERY FROM BUFFETING
RECEIVED IN LEBANON, AND (C) DETERMINATION TO RESIST DOMINATION OF
PLO POLICY BY SYRIA AND EGYPT.
MAESTRONE

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